implementation of the Ganga Waters Treaty, the Prime Minister, reiterated Government's resolve to continue to abide by India's treaty commitments.

Ban on Employment of Indians in Saudi Arabia

4051. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Saudi Arabia has imposed a de-facto ban on Indian nationals in the matter of employment in that country; and

(b) if so, whether Government would take immediate diplomatic initiatives to restore normalcy in view of the fact that the future employment of lakhs of workers depend of friendly relations between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) Saudi Arabia has not imposed any ban on the recruitment of Indians for employment in that country. Indian nationals continue to be recruited by Saudi Arabian companies as before.

(b) Does not arise.

भारतीय दूतावास के व्यय में वृद्धि

4052. श्री चिमनभाई हरीभाई शुक्ल: क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या विदेश-स्थित भारतीय दूतावासों का कार्यचालन-व्यय पिछले दो वर्षों में बढ़ रहा है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो वर्ष 1989-90 से आज तक इस वृद्धि का श्रेणी-वार और वर्ष-वार ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) उन दूतावासों के नाम क्या हैं, जिनके व्यय की प्रतिशतता को सर्वाधिक पाया गया है;

(घ) इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ङ) क्या सरकार ने इस संबंध में कोई विस्तृत अध्ययन कराया है?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती वसुन्धरा राजे): (क) जी, हां,

(ख) से (ङ) 1993-94 से 1997-98 वित्त वर्षों के श्रेणी-वार, मिशन-वार व्यय की सूचना अनुपत्र में दी गई है। [देखिए परिशिष्ट 184, अनुपत्र सं०-99] 1989-90 से 1992-93 वित्तीय वर्षों के व्यय के ब्यौरे उपलब्ध नहीं हैं क्योंकि सिविल लेखा नियमावली के प्रावधानों के अनुसार मुख्य लेखा नियंत्रक के कार्यालय में केवल पांच वर्षों की अवधि के समेकित व्यय संचित दस्तावेजों को ही रखा जाता है।

हालांकि सभी मिशनों में व्यय के लिए मार्गदर्शन एक समान हैं फिर भी कुछ मिशनों का व्यय कुल योग का उच्च प्रतिशत है; ऐसा अनेक कारणों से है जैसे अधिकारियों और कर्मचारियों की अधिक संख्या, विदेश प्रचार पर आवश्यकताओं में बढ़ोत्तरी, उच्च किराया, कार्यालय उपकरणों और संचार पद्धतियों का उन्नयन, चल रहे नवीकरण कार्य पर व्यय, विशेष आकस्मिकताएं आदि।

मिशनों/केन्द्रों में किसी प्रकार के अत्याधिक व्यय अथवा अपव्यय से बचने के लिए अधिक ध्यान दिया जाता है। विदेश स्थित हमारे राजदूतावासों को विस्तृत और विशिष्ट अनुदेश जारी किए गए हैं कि वे इस प्रकार के क्षेत्र तय करें जहां मिशन/केन्द्र के कार्यकरण में उसकी कार्यकुशलता पर समझौता किए बिना सख्त नियंत्रण करने से व्यय में प्रभावी रूप से कमी की जा सकती है। मिशनों से प्राप्त प्रस्तावों और व्यय के आकड़ों की सावधानीपूर्वक जांच की जाती है और उन नाजुक क्षेत्रों जहां व्यय में वृद्धि होने की सम्भावना है, को तय किया गया है तथा उनके व्यय संबंधी आकड़ों की नियमित रूप से निगरानी की जाती है और समय-समय पर सुधारात्मक उपायों को करने की सलाह दी जाती है। मुख्य लेखा नियंत्रक के कार्यालय द्वारा व्यय की पश्च-लेखा परीक्षा की जाती है और यह भारत के नियंत्रक तथा महालेखा परीक्षक द्वारा सांविधिक लेखा परीक्षा के अध्यधीन भी है।

ये उपाय लक्ष्यों की प्राप्ति के लिए सामान्यतया सफल है तथा व्यय को नियंत्रित करने में प्रभावी हैं। तथापि, यह एक सतत प्रक्रिया है।

Pakistani Firing on Civilian Areas

4053. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan forces are continuing unprovoked firing on civilian areas along Indian border for last many months;

(b) if so, whether Pakistan has been warned to stop it; and

(c) if so, the response of Pak Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) to (c) Pakistani forces have been constantly resorting to unprovoked firing along the international border and the Line of Control, including firing on civilian areas, in Jammu &Kashmir. This has continued in recent months. Indian security forces respond as is required by the situation. Our concerns regarding such unprovoked firing have been conveyed to Pakistan. Regrettably, the Pakistani side has continued to resort to it. Government are closely monitoring the situation and will take all action required to safeguard national security.

Trilateral Trade Agreement

4054. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a trilateral agreement on transit trade has been signed between India-Iran-Turkmenistan to facilitate trade;

(b) if so, the salient features of the agreement; and

(c) how the country is going to be benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir, on 22nd February, 1997 in Tehran, India, Iran and Turkmenistan signed at the level of Foreign Ministers, a Trilateral Agreement on International Transit of Goods.

(b) The salient features of the Agreement are: facilitation, simplification and acceleration in customs procedure and other formalities for transit of goods; exemption of import and export duties or other taxes for goods in transit; future possibility of setting up a simplified visa regime for personnel engaged in the transit of cargo under the Agreement and a regular joint mechanism for supervising the implementation of the Agreement.

(c) It is expected that the Agreement would be beneficial for the country in meeting the needs for developing an efficient, reliable, dependable and cost-effective route for trade and other forms of economic interaction between India, Iran and Turkmenistan and other countries of Central Asia.

Effect of New Food Product Order

4055. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new Food Product Order has since been issued;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which the new Order will provide requisite leverage to the food processing industries for improving efficiency and productivity;

(c) the extent to which this Order will give boost to the domestic industry in developing processing in the country; and

(d) the reaction of food processing industries to this Order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (d) The Fruit Products order promulgated under the Essential Commodities Act 1955 was originally Gazette notified on 3.5.1955. Based on the experience of implementing that order from inception to 1997, Government notified the Fruit products (Amendment) Order 1997. This notification (SC: 1530) was published in the Gazette of India on June 14, 1997. The amendments contained in that order has been made with a view to adequately meet the long felt needs of the processed fruit and vegetable industry. These amendments are expected to facilitated greater innovation in product formulations, promote food safety and consumer participation and safety encourage Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and reduce procedural delays. The reaction of the food processing industry to these amendments has been encouraging.

Export of processed food

4056. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of processed food exported during each of the preceding three years; State-wise; and

(b) the details of measures contemplated for increase in export in the Ninth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI